GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3433
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2001
REHABILITATION OF EXPLOITED CHILDREN AND WOMEN
SUSHILA SAROJ

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any programme to liberate women engaged in prostitution;

(b) if so, the number of women taken out from this profession by the Government so far;

(c) whether the Government are formulating any effective scheme for the rehabilitation of exploited children and women;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which this programme is likely to be implemented properly?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India hasformulated a National Plan of Action to combat trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children with the objective to mainstream, to reintegrate women and child victims of prostitution in society through strategies that cover prevention, legislation and law enforcement, provision of basic services to the victims of prostitution, rescue and rehabilitation, awareness generation and social mobilization. The concerned Central Ministries andState Governments would plan the interventions required and operationalise them.

(b) The Government have been issuing instructions from time to time to the State Governments for conducting regular raids especially in identified high supply areas and launch prevention and rehabilitation programmes in communities where prostitution is carried on as a tradition, as envisaged in the Plan of Action to combat trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children, and other programmes being implemented by them. Some of the cases reported by the States are the rehabilitation of 14,339 women victims and 580 minor girls and closing down of 24 brothels upto the year 2000.

(c) & (d) Currently, the Central/State Governments havebeen implementing a number of projects/schemes for the rescue and rehabilitation of women and children victims through their own agencies and in collaboration with NGOs,such as a scheme called 'Jabali' in Madhya Pradesh which aims at assisting the voluntary organizations to take up activities for the welfare and development of women and child victims; the Devdasi Rehabilitation Scheme of the Karnataka Government;a project started by Government of Andhra Pradesh for rehabilitation of women victims who are HIV infected;setting up of Special Juvenile Homes by the Government of Maharashtra with facilities of counseling and vocational training and health care for children affected by commercial sexual exploitation and HIV/AIDS.

Besides schemes for training, employment and income generation like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Support to Training and EmploymentProgramme (STEP), Settingup of Training-cum- Production Centres (NORAD), Socio-Economic Programme(SEP), TRYSEMand DWACRA are implemented in source areasfor the welfare and rehabilitation of prostitutes. In some of the red light areas Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Schemehas been launched. The Government has anextensive network of Short Stay Homes and homes setup under the Juvenile Justice Act for protection and rehabilitation of the victims of prostitution.

(e) Does not arise in view of above.